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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

JULY 1987

NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR

MONTHLY REPORT #6

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This memorandum was prepared by the Nicaragua and Central America Branches of the Office of African and Latin American Analysis.

It contains information available as of 10 August 1987. Questions and comments are welcome and should be addressed to Chief, Middle America-Caribbean Division, ALA,

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NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR MONTHLY REPORT #6

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[REDACTED]

NICARAGUA

Developments During July

The Insurgent Effort

The insurgents' strategy of expanding the geographic extent of their operations and forcing the regime to defend multiple targets is stretching government resources thin while providing the rebels an opportunity to attack larger and more significant military targets. (See attached indicators.) Meanwhile, the overall level of fighting remained relatively high during July, and the number of combatants inside Nicaragua increased slightly, but a decline in aerial resupply tonnage and food shortages caused some insurgent groups to head for Honduras late in the month. [REDACTED]

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During the past month, the insurgents have spread the war into more populated areas and begun to launch more complex multiunit operations. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] They also attacked the towns of Quilali in late June and San Jose de Bocay in mid-July, supported by mortar fire and using road ambushes to slow government reinforcements. Although the resulting publicity both inside Nicaragua and internationally highlighted the guerrillas' willingness to attack larger targets, the deaths of some civilians led to new charges of human rights abuses. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the attack on San Jose de Bocay, the Sandinistas' forward support base for operations in north-central Nicaragua, was planned to take advantage of the temporary deployment of large numbers of government troops to Matagalpa on 19 July to provide protection for the Sandinista anniversary celebration there. Sixteen separate rebel units surrounded San Jose de Bocay and claimed to have captured the airstrip, an artillery base, and several nearby cooperatives, but failed to overrun the militia battalion garrison in the center of town. Insurgent commanders claimed they destroyed three artillery pieces, fuel tanks at the airfield, and numerous other military facilities and then dispersed before government reinforcements arrived. Many of these details have not been confirmed. [REDACTED]

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As a result of heavy rains, cloud cover, and the unavailability of the rebels' DC-6, aerial resupply tonnage declined for the second month in a row. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] One large airdrop was made subsequently, but insurgents in the northwest probably will continue to rotate in and out of Honduras for resupply. [REDACTED]

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The Sandinista Regime

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On the political front, the Sandinistas held their eighth anniversary celebration in Matagalpa without incident. This was the second year in a row that anniversary festivities have been held in a war zone city. They also disputed claims of rebel successes at San Jose de Bocay by flying journalists to view the town and airfield. In addition, the regime avoided becoming isolated in regional negotiations by participating in a Foreign Ministers' meeting in Honduras late in the month and by joining the other Central American governments in signing a peace accord at the summit on 6 August.

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The Anti-Sandinista Insurgency

Key Indicators

Legend ○ Deficient ● Substantial
 ○ Weak ● Strong
 ○ Moderate

High
Med
Low } Level of confidence
 in judgment

Military Capabilities		1986					1987							
		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	
1	Presence in country	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
2	Geographic extent of operations	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
3	Command, control, and complexity of operations	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
4	Intelligence and security	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
5	Military initiative	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
6	Combat proficiency	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
7	Troop morale and discipline	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Low
8	Availability of weapons/ammunition/equipment	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
9	Logistic support	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
Political Capabilities														
10	Leadership quality and charisma	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
11	Cohesion and unity	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
12	Appeal of movement inside Nicaragua	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
13	Development and expression of political program	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
14	Cooperation of rural population	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
15	Urban support	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
16	Cooperation by Central American states	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
17	Foreign support and recognition	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High

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The Sandinista Regime

Key Indicators

Legend

- Deficient ● Substantial
 ○ Weak ● Strong
 ○ Moderate

High
Med
Low } Level of confidence
in judgment

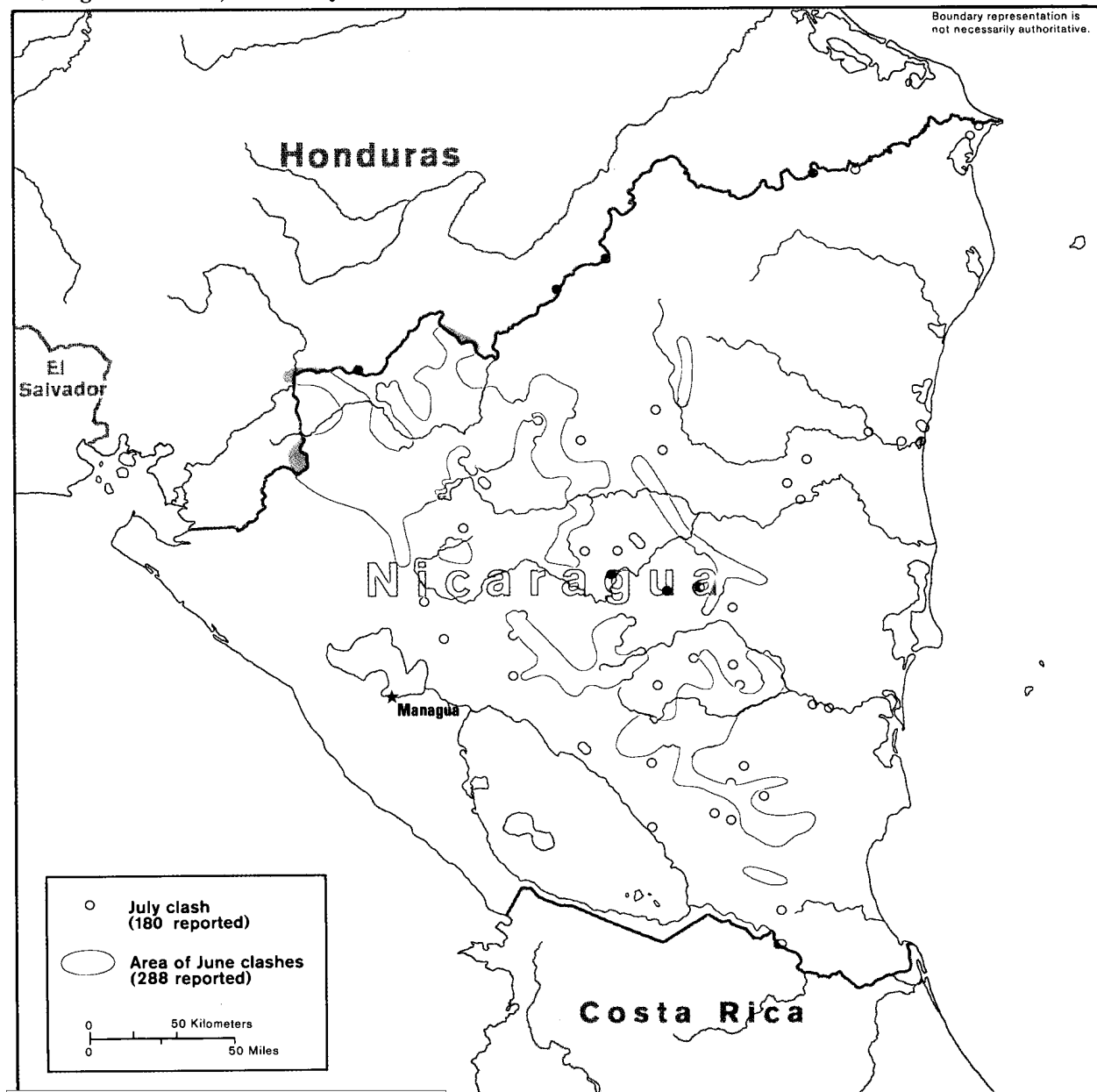
Military Capabilities

		1986					1987							
		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	
1	Command and control	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
2	Strategy and tactics	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
3	Intelligence and security	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
4	Military aggressiveness	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
5	Mobility/Presence in countryside	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
6	Combat effectiveness	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
7	Recruitment and retention	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
8	Availability of weapons and equipment	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
9	Logistic support	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
10	Ability to assimilate equipment and operate without foreign advisors	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med

Political Capabilities

11	Directorate unity and cohesion	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
12	Civilian/military relations	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
13	Internal security	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
14	Political institutions	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Low
15	Ability to mobilize mass support	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Low
16	Control of political opposition	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	High
17	Ability to defuse religious/ethnic discontent	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
18	Ability to deflect dissatisfaction with economic performance	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med
19	Foreign political/diplomatic support	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Med

Nicaraguan Clashes, June-July 1987



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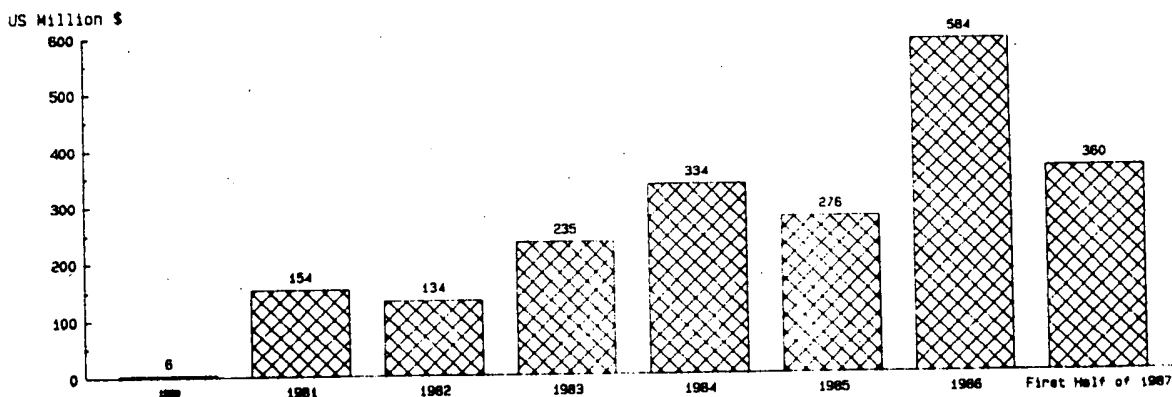
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**Soviet Bloc and Cuban Arms
Deliveries to Nicaragua**

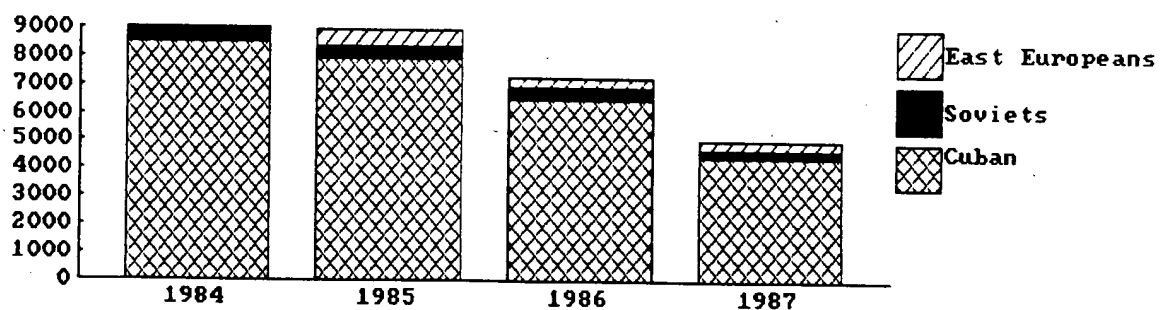


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Foreign Advisers in Nicaragua

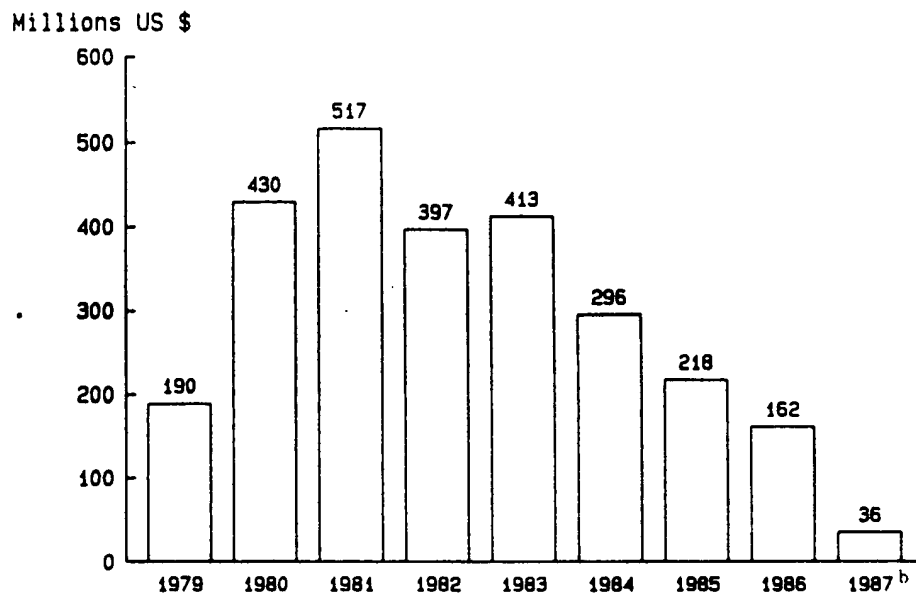
CURRENT FOREIGN PRESENCE IN NICARAGUA

	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>
Cubans	2,225*	2,225*
Soviets	75	200
East Europeans	100	225

*Midpoint of 2,000-2,500

Recent Developments

Nothing to report.

Western Aid to Nicaragua^a

a Aid figures revised to include assistance from multilateral and private sources.
 b 1987 figure is for first quarter only and may be incomplete

Recent Developments

Nicaragua received \$36 million in donations--primarily foodstuffs and consumer goods--from Western sources during the first quarter of 1987. The largest contributions were the EC, Sweden, the United Nations World Food Program, and the Netherlands. Private sources, led by US solidarity groups, donated more than \$11 million of the total.

Venezuelan President Lusinchi, during a late-July visit to Mexico City, said neither his country nor Mexico will finance oil deliveries to Nicaragua on terms other than those of the San Jose Accord, which requires 80 percent in cash and allows the remaining 20 percent in long-term soft credits.

a proposed Contadora oil aid package for Nicaragua is not likely to be approved in the near future.

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[REDACTED]

NICARAGUAN HUMAN RIGHTS CHRONOLOGY

In July, Sandinista accusations of insurgent human rights violations increased somewhat, following an eight-month low. The regime claimed that the rebels were responsible for the death of a Chilean internationalist in late June. The Nicaraguan Human Rights Association, which is associated with the guerrillas, issued a six-month report concluding that rebel abuses "may be on the decline." The Association described its investigation of 22 major cases of insurgent violations, while noting that it had discovered 200 allegations of Sandinista abuses. Meanwhile, President Ortega apparently has decided to allow the OAS Human Rights Commission to visit Nicaragua but insists that the Commission's agenda and itinerary be approved by the regime. Specific accusations of Sandinista violations decreased in July.

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INSURGENT HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

23 June

A rebel attack on an agricultural and livestock cooperative in Leon Department resulted in seven civilian deaths, including two or three children. Another six to 10 civilians were wounded, according to regime press and US Embassy reporting. [REDACTED]

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28 June

The Nicaraguan Interior Ministry claims that rebels killed a Chilean agronomist working with the Danish World University Service in Leon Department in late June, according to regime and US press reports. [REDACTED]

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4 July

The Sandinista press reports that 11 civilians were killed and five wounded during a rebel truck ambush in Nueva Guinea Department. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

10 July

The regime press accuses the rebels of decapitating some 20 persons in Matagalpa Department who had refused to collaborate with them. [REDACTED]

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16 July

During an insurgent attack on the town of San Jose de Bocay in Jinotega Department, six civilians were killed and 11 injured according to the Sandinista press and [REDACTED]. Among those killed were a woman and her three-year-old son, who reportedly were shot at point-blank range. [REDACTED]

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22 July

Several civilians were kidnaped by the rebels during an ambush in central Nicaragua, according to the regime press. [REDACTED]

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24 July

The Sandinista press says the insurgents shot at a civilian boat in southern Zelaya Department, wounding two persons, and then kidnaped a female passenger. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

28 July

The Nicaraguan Human Rights Association issued a six-month report describing its investigation of 22 allegations of rebel violations. The organization also detailed its attempts to establish a military prosecutor's office for the insurgency. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

SANDINISTA HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

Early July

President Daniel Ortega agreed to permit the OAS Human Rights Commission to visit Nicaragua in response to the Commission's standing request of over two years, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The Sandinistas insist, however, that the group's agenda and itinerary be approved in advance by regime officials. The visit is expected to be announced later this fall and scheduled for sometime next year. [REDACTED]

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23 July

Members of the 22 January Mothers Movement provided Embassy officials in Managua with details of human rights violations committed by Sandinista state security officials in late 1986 and earlier this year. Among the abuses described are murder, arbitrary arrests, torture, beatings, and threats using a poisonous snake. [REDACTED]

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26 July

Three civilians were killed and three others wounded when Sandinista troops pursued seven Nicaraguans as they crossed into Costa Rica near Penas Blancas, [REDACTED]

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SIGNIFICANT NICARAGUAN POLITICAL EVENTS

19 July

The Sandinista government held its eighth
Anniversary celebration in the northwestern war
zone city of Matagalpa. [REDACTED]

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EL SALVADORDevelopments During JulyPolitical Developments

Radical labor unions and other guerrilla front groups were increasingly active last month in their campaign to foment popular unrest and discredit the Duarte government, but their violent tactics and close identification with the insurgents appear to have cost them additional popular support. A nationwide poll conducted by a Gallup affiliate in mid-July indicates that only 4 percent of Salvadorans believe the insurgents are winning the war, either militarily or politically. While guerrilla-controlled unions have continued disruptive work stoppages, the majority of organized labor remains progovernment, and we believe workers will continue to resist the radical left's efforts to orchestrate a general strike. [redacted]

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In the capital, leftist demonstrators repeatedly tried to provoke a violent confrontation with authorities, but the government's response was restrained, and only two minor clashes occurred during July. The security services--which lack adequate manpower, equipment, and training to contain widespread civil disorder--fear criticism from human rights groups, according to [redacted] and police officers have been ordered to avoid confrontations at all costs. [redacted]

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Meanwhile, military frustration over the absence of emergency legislation--which, until its lapse last January, permitted the authorities to prohibit strikes and public demonstrations and detain suspected subversives without charges for up to two weeks--is unlikely to strain civil-military relations seriously. President Duarte told the Army Chief of Staff he will not reinstate extraordinary emergency measures at this time to avoid giving the guerrillas a propaganda issue, [redacted] He added, however, that he is willing to consider lesser measures if the situation deteriorates and street violence increases. Defense Minister Vides Casanova recently indicated his support for Duarte's stance in a conversation with the US Ambassador. [redacted]

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Military Developments

The government has extended its nationwide counterinsurgency campaign, "Operation Monterrosa," for at least another 30 days due to its effectiveness in disrupting guerrilla activity. Captured documents indicate that insurgent units in Chalatenango Department--a key guerrilla stronghold--have been forced out of their basecamps and isolated from other units, logistics bases, and local intelligence networks. The documents cite guerrilla

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[redacted]
vulnerability to ambushes staged by small, mobile Army patrols.
[redacted] indicates that, despite its overall
success, the military sometimes has failed to press the advantage
because of inadequate leadership, discipline, and training in
some units. [redacted]

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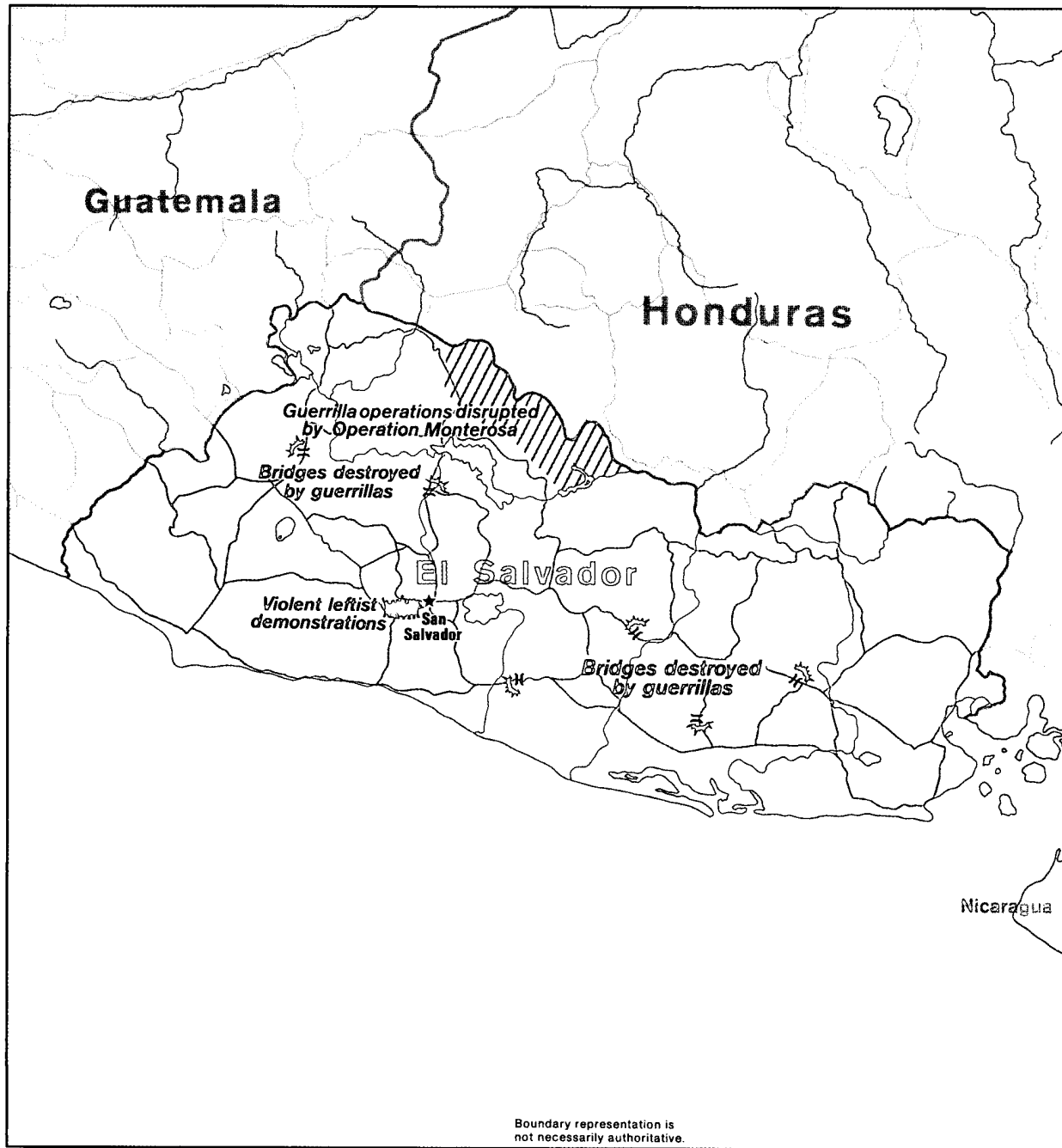
In other areas last month, the guerrillas continued to avoid government forces and conduct small attacks, ambushes, and sabotage of the economic infrastructure--including the destruction of six bridges. Such actions probably were intended to divert Army units from "Operation Monterrosa" and to relieve pressure on insurgent base areas. While the guerrillas' transportation stoppage of 13-16 July succeeded in halting most commercial bus traffic in San Salvador, the High Command's decision to provide military transport for civilian commuters, coupled with its refusal to pull troops out of the field, undercut the ban's effectiveness. [redacted]

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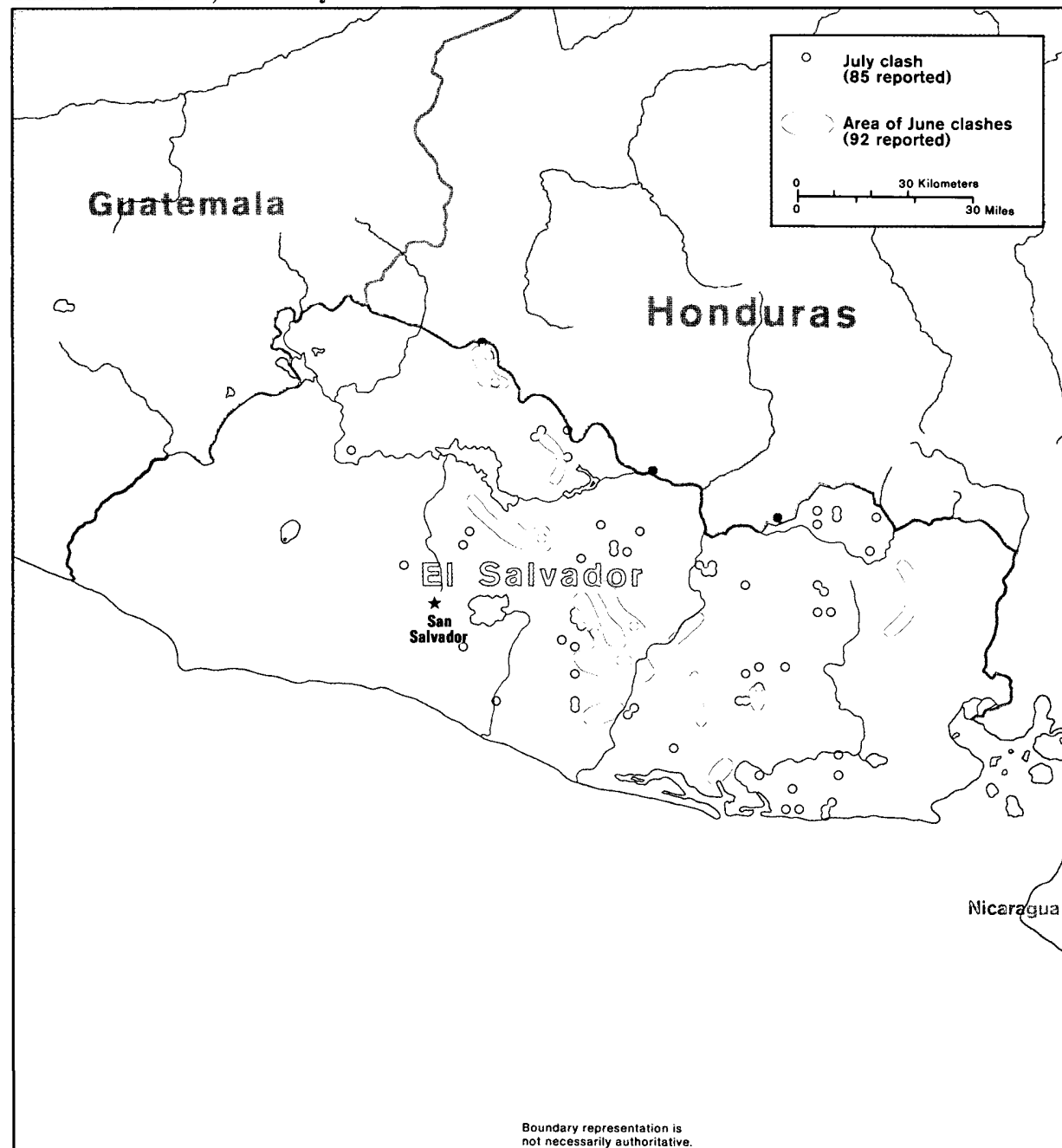
Government and Insurgent Activity, July 1987



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Salvadoran Clashes, June-July 1987

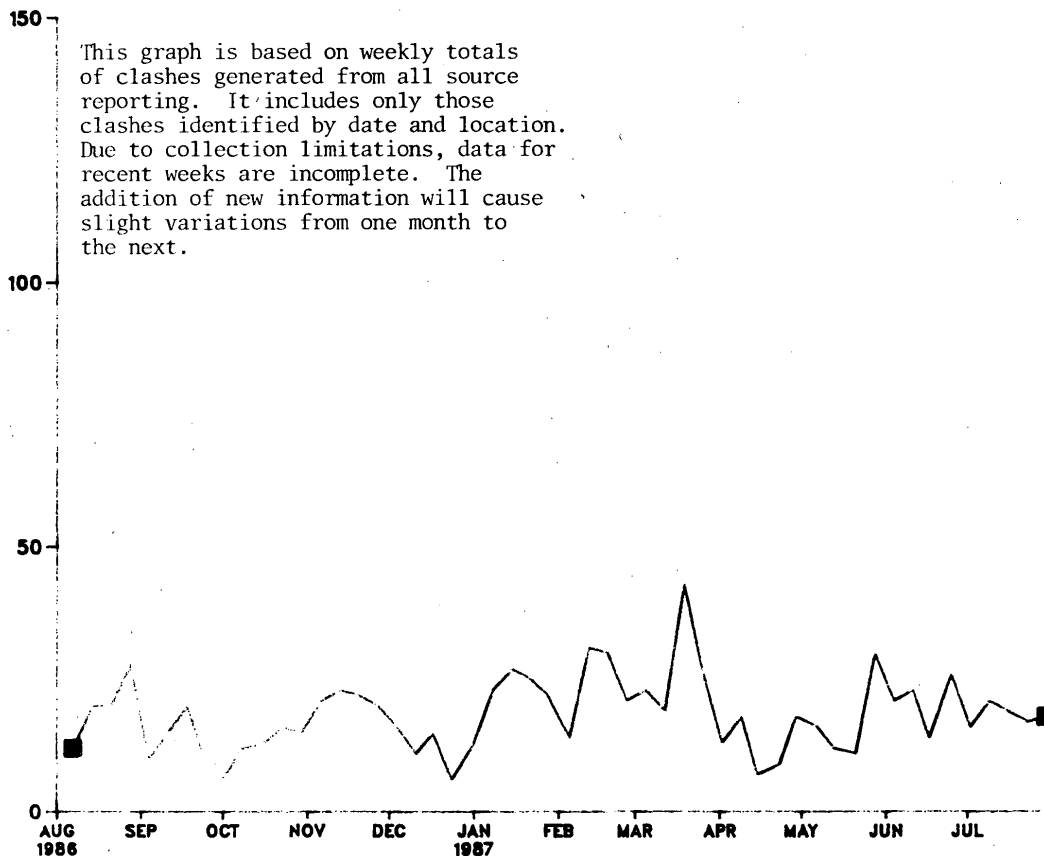


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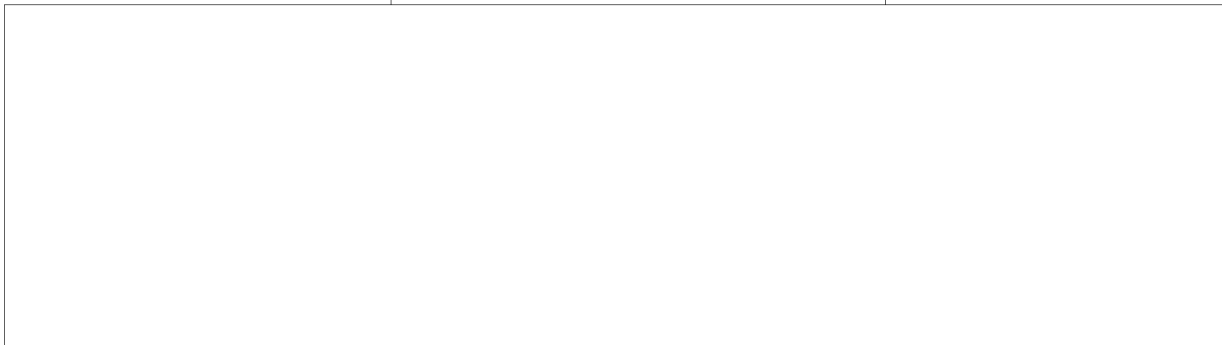
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Salvadoran Clashes August 1986 -- July 1987



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COMING EVENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA DURING AUGUST

6-7 August	Central American summit in Guatemala City. []	25X1
12 August	General Noriega's fourth anniversary as Panama Defense Forces Commander to be celebrated with a regime-sponsored rally. []	25X1
19-20 August	Central American Foreign Ministers meet to discuss implementation of peace accord. []	25X1
Late August	Guatemalan Specific Affairs Minister Alfonso Cabrera probably will replace Mario Quinones as Foreign Minister. Quinones, originally scheduled to leave the Cabinet next January, has announced his resignation effective 15 August. []	25X1

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